



TECHNICAL NOTE (FOR INSERVICE USE)

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES¹ BUILDING GATEWAY PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

The recent release (April 1998) of the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) describes conservation planning as holistic, or, whole farm planning in a comprehensive approach. It brings the entire farm and all of its resources into the thought process for consideration. This includes physical (soil, water, air, plants, animals) and human (**sociology**, cultural resources, and economics) considerations.

Sociology can help us describe, understand, and forecast how behavior, values, attitudes, and beliefs might be affected from natural resources planning activities. Sociology examines how a projected change in the human environment will affect people individually, as a group or within a community. The more we can take into consideration, the better decisions the landuser can make. Additionally, as we gaze beyond the boundaries of the planning area and consider the effects (positive/negative/neutral) of planned activities, holistic planning techniques can be assisted by the use of sociology.

One new sociology-based² technique being tried in Washington State is **Gateway communities**. Gateways are just what they sound like – an entrance to knowledge and understanding. Gateway communities are typically located near public land areas that attract substantial numbers of visitors for purposes of tourism and recreation. Their geographic proximity and shared visitors mean that decisions and policies made by public land agencies and their gateway communities have a significant impact on each other.

¹ Source – liberally borrowed from: Gateway Conference Agenda, Monday, 29 Jun 98 10:02 CST, from Jim Maetzold Jim.Maetzold@usda.gov

² Remember – Sociology is not the whole show – economics, cultural resources, soil science, engineering, soil conservationist's, etc. all have an integral part in assisting, planning and sustaining a Gateway community.

Gateway communities can provide a foundation to exchange information and show support for public and tribal lands collaborations for sustainable development and resource protection, with an emphasis on how tourism and recreation interests can contribute to both.

This is probably best done by showcasing the best and most successful partnerships. These showcases can explain tools and technical assistance available, and, act as a forum to raise questions and discuss common concerns.

The main message of Gateway communities is that Federal and State agencies are **interdependent**. Cooperative planning and decision-making, through cross-government consultation and partnerships, is crucial for building economically sound, environmentally healthy gateway communities.

Audiences are open to everyone and any groups are welcome. Some examples of potentially interested groups include: Community and county leaders; landowners; businesses; State agencies such as transportation and tourism departments and Federal and state public land managers; Tribal leaders; representatives of local and regional non-governmental organizations, such as environmental, heritage, economic development, recreation, and tourism groups; memberships of partnerships, Community planning and development experts; and local tourism and hospitality businesses (hotels, restaurants, attractions, tour operators, etc.).

Florida has a diverse and rich community mix. ideas which can educate, enhance, and lead to citizens at all levels. So, **try something new** fences and boundaries. The lines of communities, and, the rich wealth of open.



From this mix we can draw greater cooperation by all and look beyond normal communication to Gateway opportunities they offer, are

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